



Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update

الاسبوعى لمشاريع اعمار العراق التحديث



Reporting progress and good news

تطور الحدث والاخبار الجيدة تقارير عن

12.07.05



Project Close Up...

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi police assigned to the newly modernized Najaf police station register their approval of the site's renovation. Story Page (Photo by Denise Calabria)

Notable Quotes

"You are in our way -- please leave so we can get back to work."

Mr. Alla, an Iraqi sewer construction laborer, to reporters. (Oct. 2005)

Inside this Issue

- Page 2 - Change of Charter
 - Electrical Substation Recognized for Excellence
- Page 3 - Contracting Offices Help Boost Iraq's Economy
 - Control of Major Power Projects Turned Over
 - Al Shuada Sewer Work
- Page 4 - Latest Project Numbers
- Page 5 - Sector Overview: Current Status/Impact
- Page 6 - Spotlight on Design-Build Contractors
 - Unit-Level Assistance in the News
- Page 7 - Series: Reconstruction History
- Page 8 - Spotlight on Coalition Partners: Australia
- Page 9 - Iraq: Country Facts
 - Railroad Station Renovations Progress
- Page 10 - New Water Plant Opens in al Husain
 - Birds Eye View of the Erbil-Ifray Water Project
- Page 11 - Police Station Renovations Instills Pride
- Page 12 - Electrical Safety Training Keeps Workers Safe
 - Photo Montage: The Ar Ruthbah Hospital
- Page 13 - DoD Reconstruction Partnership
 - Weekly Update Contacts



Video Download



A water treatment plant expansion in the Shark Dijlah area helping approximately two million Iraqi citizens and providing jobs for hundreds more.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/vjump.php?vid=7957>

Progress Dispatches

- Al Husseinia Primary Healthcare Center

Construction is 91% complete on the \$653,000 primary healthcare center project in Rusafa, Baghdad Governorate. The project started in Oct. 2004 and will be completed this month. The two-story, 1,155 square meter facility will provide medical and dental examination and treatment. The facility will be able to treat about 150 patients daily. This is one of 29 primary healthcare center projects programmed in the Baghdad Governorate.



- Al Kut Wasit Underground Line: Project Complete

Construction has been completed on an electricity project that will provide service to over 200 Iraqi homes in Al Kut, Wasit Governorate. The \$1.5M Wasit Underground Line project installed two new underground electrical feeders from the Al Kut South substation to the Al Ezah substation which will provide incoming power to approximately 2,000 local residents. The Iraqi contractor employed an average of 28 Iraqi workers daily on the site.

- Diwaniyah Rail Station: Project Complete



Construction has been completed on \$181,000 railroad station project in Diwaniyah District, Al Qadisiyah Governorate. The railroad project commenced in Aug. 2005 and was completed last month. The project completely renovated all existing rail station facilities. The station will now house the Iraqi railroad headquarters for the Qadisiyah area in addition to a passenger ticket station. All six railroad station projects in this governorate are now complete.

- Balad Rooz District: Project Complete

Construction has been completed on a water project that provides water service to more than 10,000 Iraqi residents in three villages in the Balad Rooz District, Diyala Governorate. The \$337,000 Al-Jeser, Khazi and Hamail water projects connect approximately 15 km of pipelines which transmit water to these villages. In the Balad Rooz District, four Public Works & Water projects are programmed, with one complete.





Change of Charter Results in Combined Organization

By Denise Calabria
Gulf Region Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division, headquarters conducted a Change of Charter ceremony in the International Zone today. Ambassador for Iraq Reconstruction, Daniel Speckhard, was the keynote speaker at the event where Hugh M. Exton, Jr., Director, Project and Contracting Office (PCO), relinquished authority of the PCO to Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr., Commander, Gulf Region Division.

The PCO was established in May 2004 to serve the people of the U.S. and Iraq by contracting for and delivering approximately \$13 billion in resources allocated for rebuilding Iraq by the U.S. Congress on behalf of the American taxpayers. The Gulf Region Division is the execution agency of the Iraq Reconstruction Program. Its headquarters and three districts provide quality, responsive, and full spectrum engineering services to the Multi-National Force-Iraq and the Iraqi government in support of military and civil construction.

“Today, two great organizations that have successfully performed the missions for which they were created now unify their efforts in service to the Iraqi people,” said McCoy. “PCO and GRD have had very similar missions in the past – to rebuild Iraq. Of a program of over 3,500 different projects, together we have started over 3,000 and completed over 2,000. Those projects are designed to improve the essential services and capabilities of Iraq in a way never before seen and to jumpstart the economy on a path to long-term prosperity. That is a historic mission and these two organizations have made significant progress in the last year and a half.”

In his comments, Exton thanked his team for doing a “great job in effecting the consolidation within budget, above ‘spec’ and ahead of schedule. I believe we have achieved mission success.”



In a Change of Charter ceremony held last Sunday, Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr., (far left) salutes during the Iraqi national anthem. Keynote speakers at the ceremony included Ambassador for Iraq Reconstruction, Daniel Speckhard, (center) and outgoing Director of Projects and Contracting Office, Mr. Hugh Exton (front). (Photo by Lu Anne Fantasia)

Electrical Substation in Erbil Recognized for Excellence

By Jenna Bisenius
Iraq Project and Contracting Office



Workers perform transformer and energizing tests at the substation in Erbil. (Photos Courtesy of Washington International, Inc.)

BAGHDAD, Iraq - An electrical substation in the northern governorate of Erbil was recognized as the Gulf Region North's (GRN) model project for quality and safety by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project was built with oversight by the Project & Contracting Office's (PCO) Electricity Sector and quality control by the USACE, GRN.

Work on the substation included termination of all control cables, commissioning of switchgear, filling of main transformers with oil, light fixture work, laying of underground power cables, and sidewalk and entryway restoration.

The Electricity Sector is one of four reconstruction sectors. The other sectors are Oil, Public Works and Water, and Facilities and Transportation.



Contracting Offices Help Boost Iraq's Economy

Spc. Adam Musil
2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- To defeat the economic woes of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used government spending as a way to "prime the pump" – putting more money into the economy and generating more jobs. In Iraq, a similar concept is underway by U.S. contracting offices.



"We have boosted the Iraqi economy by generating contracts to Iraqi companies for a sum of around \$370 million spread over more than 1,400 contracts in Fiscal Year 2005," said Maj. Brian Murphy, chief of the Baghdad Regional Contracting Office, Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan.

Contracts have been awarded to Iraqi government organizations to pick up trash, improve the transportation system, rehabilitate buildings, and develop clinics and hospitals. About \$50 million has gone to the city of Baghdad to pick up and transfer trash to sanitary landfills, he said.

More than 140 primary health clinics have received help from the contracting office.

Continued on Page 10

Control of Two Major Power Projects Turned Over to Iraqis

"I'm optimistic." – Muhson Shlash, Minister of Electricity

An agreement between the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity and the U.S. government will give Iraq over 500 kilovolts of power through two new projects: a new electrical substation in Najaf and a reconstructed power line in Basra. Under this new agreement, the Iraqi government will manage the two projects, with money and oversight from the Project and Contracting Office.



Minister of Electricity Muhson Shlash, left, and Project and Contracting Office director (former) Hugh Exton following the signing of a \$16.7 electrical reconstruction project agreement. (Stars & Stripes Photo)

Source: Stars & Stripes, Dec 2, 2005

Al Shuuda Sewer Work

Mr. Alla, a resident of Al Shuuda and worker on his community's \$2.2 million sewer and water project, stands next to some new pipes.

Members of the sewer work crew in Al Shuuda feel very good about what they are doing for their community.



A sewer work crew member.

"We only had gutters and channels to take the sewage out into the street. This project will change everything." -- Mr. Alla, Iraqi Worker

"The people are very happy," shouted 10 workers in unison, as they took a short break to talk to a BBC reporter.

The Al Shuuda project is being completed by Iraqi engineers using local neighborhood labor following designs created and approved by Iraqis at the Baghdad Sewer Authority.

Source: Maj. Russ Goemaere 2nd BCT

Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update



Projects at a Glance (As of: December 2, 2005)

Compiled by Katie Wall, PCO

•\$6.807 billion has been disbursed, representing over 52% of total funds (as of December 4, 2005)

•2,898 projects starts (out of 3,200 planned projects). This number includes 466 projects funded under the Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program (AIRP)

•2,019 projects are complete, including 399 that are funded under the AIRP

Reconstruction Sector	Project Type	# Under Construction*	# Completed*
Health & Education	Schools	21	776
	Primary Health Care Centers	142	0
	Hospital Projects	17	5
	Public Buildings	0	4
Public Works & Water	Potable Water Projects	95	101
	Sewer Projects	4	0
Security & Justice	Fire Stations	29	60
	Border Posts	112	115
	Military Base Projects	44	44
	Police Facilities	119	253
Transportation & Communication	Railroad Stations	19	77
	Village Roads	28	12
	Ports Projects	3	2
	Postal Facilities	1	23
	Airport Projects (FAA certified ready)	8	4
	Expressways	2	0
Electricity	Distribution Projects (including Substations)	99	68
	Transmission Projects	7	9
	Power Generation Projects	5	15
Oil	Dedicated Power Plants	1	3
	Water Injection Pump Stations	0	8

* Note: Does not include projects funded by the Development Fund for Iraq.

Source: Multiple PCO Management Reports



Sector Overview: Current Status – End State

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO



Sector	Current Status	End State
Electricity	1,327 MW	1,556 MW in potential generation capacity added (enough for 1.4 M homes)
Oil	Around 2 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) produced 1.6 MBPD exports	3.0 MBPD produced 2.4 MBPD exports
Water & Sewer*	Added 131,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity 31,000 hectares of additional irrigated land	Additional 930,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity 251,000 hectares of additional irrigated land
Health	142 primary healthcare centers under construction	Population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis served in completed primary healthcare centers
Education	776 schools providing classrooms for 310,000 students	800 schools providing classrooms for 320,000 students
Security & Justice	115 border forts completed	247 border forts will secure 2,400 KM of border
Transportation	127 Kilometers (KM) of improved village roads Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 5.8 million citizens of Baghdad	424 KM of improved village roads 158 KM of improved major roads Provide emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities

* Note: Water metrics include data from small water project programs.

As of: December 2, 2005 Source: Multiple PCO Management Reports



Capacity Development: Spotlight on Sector Contractors

Compiled By: Sheryl Lewis
Director, PCO Capacity Development

Overview

The US government's success in rebuilding infrastructure in Iraq will be measured in terms of whether the completed facilities, systems, and equipment function and produce the services planned over the long term. The Project and Contracting Office (PCO) uses the process of Capacity Development (CD) to facilitate the successful and sustainable transfer of completed projects to the Iraqi government. Though the PCO primarily works at the infrastructure level, mainly training the Iraqi workforce on how to operate and maintain new pieces of equipment, the PCO also conducts some activities at the ministry headquarter level through four sector contractors who train staff on new business and administration systems necessary for plant operation. One such sector contractor is the Iraq Power Alliance (IPA) that works directly with the Ministry of Electricity (MoE).

Case Study

Through the Electricity Training Seminars and Specification Development program with the MoE, IPA is developing new procedures and guidelines while updating existing procedures and detailed technical specifications for the ministry to use in contracting and construction of electricity projects. The program provides the ministry with the tools they need to define, solicit for construction, and how to meet international standards on electrical projects. Once procedures and specifications are developed, training sessions are held with ministry staff.

Learn More -- Pamphlet Download

Capacity development is central to the Iraq reconstruction effort and provides the first step in building a foundation for the transfer of control for completed facilities to Iraqi management.



<http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net>

Major Accomplishments

- The IPA worked with the MoE to develop an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Program which includes training and mentoring of ministry personnel while establishing a permanent centralized O&M facility. IPA and ministry personnel jointly attend Factory Acceptance Tests for new equipment, allowing for knowledge transfer regarding the correct evaluation and acceptance procedures for factory-manufactured equipment.
- Iraqi ministry engineers, technicians, and operators are being fully trained on the National Automated Monitoring and Controls System.
- IPA is also assisting the MoE's National Dispatch Center and planning departments to construct a transmission system model and input data to modeling software. This process has allowed for the transfer of system engineering and information technology skills to the Ministry as well as strengthening of the ministry's system planning capacity for operation, network upgrading, and expansion.

Unit Level Assistance in the News

Soldier Voices:

"We saw an opportunity to do something good for the Iraqi people and followed up on it."

Capt. Scott Baumgartner, 1st Bn., 9th FA
physician's assistant

"It's all about the relationships that you can build ... for us to get out there and show that we do care and that we have a genuine interest in their well being."

Capt. Kate Jackson, commander, Co. B, 3rd FSB

Medics set up clinic in school



Spc. Felipe Rodriguez, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery medic, takes a Baghdad resident's vital signs. Medics set up the clinic in a local school, saw more than 100 residents, and dispensed medical advice and basic treatments. (Photo by Spc. Ben Brody)



Reconstruction Series: A Comparative History of U.S. Reconstruction Efforts

By Sherman Fleek
PCO Command Historian

[Editor's Note: The U.S. reconstruction effort in Iraq is the most recent of many such experiences in our past. As a matter of historical background and reference, this article is the sixth in a continuing series which highlights past reconstruction missions.]

South Korea

On June 25, 1950 communist North Korea attacked across the 38° parallel and invaded South Korea. The war advanced up and down the Korean Peninsula during the next year. Then a limited war of stale-mate commenced and failed negotiations continued until the warring powers agreed to an armistice in July 1953. Yet during this three-year war, Korea saw armies advance and fight across the same area several times. Destruction was on a massive scale and the opportunity to begin reconstruction and rebuilding programs suffered because of the instability of the middle third of the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean War was the first large international conflict where the United Nations assumed direction and control of the armed forces and also attempted to conduct reconstruction efforts. In October 1950, as United Nations forces defeated the North Korean army and pushed northward to unite the entire country, the UN established the United Nations Commission for Korean Unification and Rehabilitation. By this time it appeared that the UN forces would be imminently victorious resulting in Korean unification. However, in November 1950, UN forces were overwhelmed as the Communist Chinese intervened to support North Korea. As the defeated UN forces retreated back below the 38° parallel, the UN established the UN Korean Reconstruction Agency, to assist with the reconstruction of only South Korea, the Republic of Korea or ROK.



A soldier works on a pipe which will carry water to a Korean village. (National Archives Photo)

Facts:

- Reconstruction efforts were managed and led by the United Nations, the first time in history.
- Though the UN was the umbrella organization, the US provided and conducted nearly all the reconstruction efforts and programs with minimal assistance from other nations.
- Approximately a third of South Korean homes were destroyed. Schools, buildings, roads and much of the infrastructure were severely damaged.
- One million Koreans died in the war.
- The US, as part of the Allied forces, established a military government until 1948 when the Republic of Korea was formed.
- The US Army was the lead agency involved with US reconstruction programs.
- South Korea developed a remarkable economic recovery and reconstruction program.
- Some \$2 billion in cash and \$1.2 billion in aid packages, equipment, training, were needed through 1959 to restore Korea to prewar levels.

Once reconstruction programs began, South Korea witnessed amazing recovery in a short period of time. Another factor to consider—as in some areas in Europe—Korea, both north and south, experienced a brutal Japanese occupation for many years where leaders were imprisoned or murdered, children deported, families disrupted, businesses ruined, and natural resources pilfered and government services ruined. The US provided \$30 million of assistance to South Korea between World War II and the Korean War. Korea had hardly begun to recover from the tragedy of World War II, when war came again.



Army engineers use TNT to clear debris from a ship crossing lane beneath a damaged bridge. (National Archives Photo)



Spotlight on Coalition Partners: Australia

Operation Catalyst is the Australian Defense Force's (ADF's) contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq. Operation Catalyst commenced on July 16, 2003 following Operation Falconer. Working with the Interim Iraqi Government, the ADF continues to contribute to Multinational Force efforts to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq and assist national recovery programs. Operation Catalyst currently comprises over 1300 Australian Defense Force personnel.

Brigadier Paul Simon commands all ADF units deployed in the Middle East Area of Operations. Though deployed on Catalyst, some units, personnel and assets are dual assigned and are also responsible to supporting Operation Slipper, which is the ADF's contribution to fighting global terrorism.



ADF IN THE NEWS: *Al Muthanna Task Group assists with power installation in southern Iraq*

AL RYWAWSHA, Iraq (Oct. 2005) -- Al Rywawsha is a small village on the outskirts of As Samawah in Al Muthanna Province, southern Iraq. The people of the village have suffered a lack of maintenance of the power feeder lines and transformers servicing the village.

An Australian Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) project was designed to repair the feeder lines and upgrade the transformers to provide the village with a more stable power supply. Projects such as this result from visits by the Australian CIMIC Assessment Team, generally after a works request from the provincial government. In this particular case, the CIMIC Team was approached by the village elders seeking assistance.

Captain Tony Smith, Australian CIMIC project manager said, "The local village residents were able to meet their elected representatives and bid for this project. As a result of that meeting, we were able to undertake the project".

Australian funded CIMIC projects are managed by Australian service personnel and go a long way in helping the people of the province, and consequently the wider population of Iraq, by addressing issues relating to power, water, sewerage, health and education.

With its relatively low cost, US\$24,000, this Australian funded and managed project will have a high impact within the community. It has engendered much good will and faith between our two nations. "This has been a great result", Captain Smith said. The Australian CIMIC members are part of the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) that deployed to Iraq early this year as an Australian Government initiative to assist the people of Iraq rebuild and rehabilitate their country.



CIMIC team members in Rywawsha with village members inspecting a new transformer installed to supply power to the community.

The primary mission of the AMTG, located at Camp Smitty, close to As Samawah in Al Muthanna Province, is to provide security and protection for the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force as they undertake reconstruction projects, and to assist in training the Iraqi Army.

***"This has been a great result,"
Capt. Tony Smith, Australian CIMIC project manager***

Australian funded CIMIC projects are managed by Australian service personnel and go a long way in helping the people of the province, and consequently the wider population of Iraq, by addressing issues in the sectors of essential services, governance, economy and social affairs.



Inspecting power lines and transformers installed in the village of Al Askare.



Iraq: Country Facts



Area: 437,072 sq. km.; about the size of California.

Population: Approx. 26,000,000

Ethnic groups: Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian or other 5%

Religions: Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%

Languages: Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian

Country name:

conventional long form: Republic of Iraq

local long form: Al Jumhuriyah al Iraqiyah

Early History: Once known as Mesopotamia, Iraq was the site of flourishing ancient civilizations, including the Sumerian, Babylonian, and Parthian cultures.

Want to know more?

State Department Background Notes: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

Library of Congress: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

World Fact Book: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

Railroad Station Renovations Progress Toward Southern Iraq

By Suzanne M. Fournier
Gulf Region South
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD -- Workers have modernized 28 railroad stations in Iraq's southern provinces, starting at Iskandariyah Station in Northern Babil, just south of Baghdad, and reaching south into Thi-Qar province.

Residents living in Babil, Qadisiyah, Muthana and parts of Thi Qar provinces can now catch the train at their local train station and travel to destinations within the region, boarding and exiting at clean and safe remodeled railroad stations. Workers have performed numerous tasks at the southern province rail stations such as repairing, plastering, painting, and restoring electricity, water, and toilets.

Thi-Qar has two of nine renovations completed. Thi-Qar and Basrah Province rail stations are scheduled to have renovations finished by spring of next year.

Passengers can use the stations to access travel within their local area and eventually to travel throughout Iraq and destinations beyond.



Workers have modernized 28 rail terminals.

Local businesses can now use the renovated rail stations to ship and receive commodities by scheduling freight movement with their local stationmaster.

This will make it easier for business professionals and farmers to ship their products to regional and global markets.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the rail station renovations by using Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Funds.

The existing railroad stations were neglected for decades and previously were in unsafe, unsanitary, and unprofessional. The renovation work began with cleaning, removing garbage and demolishing unsafe structures.

Later, terrazzo floor tiles were replaced, plaster was repaired, walls were painted, ceramic tile added to bathrooms, windows and screens, septic and water systems were replaced, electricity was upgraded and backup generators were installed.



New Water Plant Opens in al Husain

The new facility provides potable water to about 3,000 local citizens.

CAMP ECHO, Iraq — Multinational Division Central-South soldiers and local authorities opened a new water plant for al Husain village near Afak (30 km east of Ad Diwaniyah) last month. The new facility provides potable water to about 3,000 local citizens.

Prepared by Bulgarian soldiers from Multinational Division Central-South 1 Brigade Combat Team, the project began two months ago and included the building of a new water plant with the pumps, filters, chlorinate system, generator and 3-km long pipeline system connecting the water plant with the village.

During the past two years, civil military relations' specialists facilitated more than 2,000 projects; including water purification facilities, electrical power stations, educational infrastructure, medical facilities and administrative buildings.

Source: Multinational Force-Iraq

Birds-eye view of the Erbil-Ifraz water project



The Erbil-Ifraz water project – on the Great Zab River -- will provide 6,000 cubic meters per hour of treated water to more than 450,000 residents of Erbil, Iraq, and has the capability of being expanded in the future by 40 percent to 10,000 cubic meters. The \$154.2 million project has employed an average of 500 workers daily. The expected completion date is Spring of 2006. (Photo by Claude McKinney, GRD)

Page 3 Story Continued.... "Contracting Offices Help Boost Iraq's Economy"

"We have executed the purchase of furniture, consumables, generators and transformers—\$40 million in all to Iraqi companies for clinics," Murphy said. "A major U.S. contractor... completes the construction and renovation, but with Iraqi managers and workers. "In the few cases when a non-Iraqi company is awarded a contract, we make sure it is Iraqi firms who will provide the transportation and logistics support, to get the job done," he added.

"The contractors are becoming aware that everything they do is competitive."

Maj. Paul Ashcraft, with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, said the Baghdad Contracting Office has provided expert intervention when contracts start getting tangled in red tape. "We had a few sewer contracts in Zafaraniya that were about a year old, and were stalled," Ashcraft said. "A quick call to Maj. Murphy provided all the help we needed. He straightened out the contracting challenges and I am glad to say the sewer contracts are now complete. "The people of Zafaraniya will probably never know how crucial the role of the Baghdad Contracting Office was in getting the sewer projects going, but their role cannot be overstated," he noted.

Until recently, contracts were paid in American dollars, now they're paid in Iraqi dinars. Murphy said the return of the dinar as the standard will strengthen the economy. The contracting office is priming the pump in other ways as well. In March, it conducted an Iraqi woman's business conference in order to identify potential businesswomen with an interest in developing or improving a business.

One important tool for all potential contractors is the Internet where they can look for contract openings listed on both English and Iraqi websites. Nearly all contracts over \$25,000 are open for bid on websites, Murphy said. Iraqi firms have significantly improved their development business practices that are necessary to be competitive in the free market economy, Murphy said.

"The contractors are becoming aware that everything they do is competitive," he added. "If they fail to abide by the contract or meet timelines, they understand that they might not get another contract. In most cases, the spirit of competition has resulted in...better performance for the customer – the Iraqi nation."



Najaf Police Station Renovations Install Upgrades, Instill Pride

By Denise Calabria
Gulf Region Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Nestled between a bustling city thoroughfare and a cheerful all-girl elementary school stand two recently renovated, bright and shiny Iraqi police (IP) stations. These facilities provide more than 250 Iraqi police not only a safer vantage point from which to serve and protect Najaf citizens, but for the first time in their careers, the means to do so with pride. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region Division (GRD) follows a two-pronged strategy in carrying out the Iraq reconstruction effort. First, GRD is working large-scale capital projects such as power plants, water treatment plants, and oil infrastructure facilities. These endeavors are expensive, take longer to build, and often are not seen by many Iraqis.

However, the service members, Army civilians, and Iraqi national employees of the GRD also are working small-scale, essential service projects such as schools, clinics, police stations, local power and water distribution facilities. The structures that are much less expensive to build but more visible to the Iraqi people.

On a recent site inspection in the Iraqi city of Najaf, Col. Richard Stevens, GRD Deputy Commander, toured the two police stations and met the resident police officers as well. Stevens viewed the new guard shacks and new bathrooms and was able to witness the pride that resonated from the faces of the police. “This station is a prime example of Iraqi security forces having the facilities to increasingly take the lead in transferring security responsibilities to civil authority,” said Stevens.



(Left to right) Maj. William Smith, Najaf-Karbala Resident Engineer, Col. Richard Stevens, GRD Deputy Commander, and Iraqi police chief, Maj. Hakim Kam, discuss the station's renovations during a recent site inspection in Najaf. (GRD Photo by Denise Calabria)

The police chief, Maj. Hakim Kam, spoke for himself and the police force under his command when he said the new facilities are “very good.” Kam said that he and his officers are very happy with the improvements because they all feel safer as a result.

...the renovated stations also represent a “visible sign of authority”...

Major William Smith, Najaf-Karbala Resident Engineer and Liaison Officer, served as the tour escort. He is a member of the 35th Engineer Brigade, a Missouri Army National Guard unit currently augmenting the Gulf Region South.

During the site inspection, Smith told the group that the two police units occupying the renovated facilities are crucial to the citizens of Najaf. “One is an IP traffic checkpoint unit that controls “Route Miami” ... a key roadway, and the other is an investigation unit that handles homicides, burglaries, and such.”

While these important responsibilities merit suitable facilities, Smith explained that the renovated stations also represent a “visible sign of authority” to the community.

“Through these renovations,” said Smith, “we are giving the IP of Wafa District something they can be proud to be a part of.”

“Our theory is to treat them with respect and they, in turn, will generate respect,” he said.



Electrical Safety Training Helps Keep Iraqi Workers Safe

Story & Photo by Jenna Bisenius
Iraq Project and Contracting Office

BAGHDAD, Iraq- In an effort to prevent work-related injuries at electricity project sites, refresher safety training was recently given to Iraqi laborers by Washington International, Inc. (WII), a contractor for the Project and Contracting Office's (PCO) Electricity Sector.

Refresher training included ladder safety, fall protection, grounding, knot tying, scaffold erection, inspecting for hazards, inspecting fall protection equipment, site safety, housekeeping and other topics. In addition to such supplemental training, all work sites have both daily and weekly safety meetings.

WII commissioning engineers also presented a course on basic electrical safe-work practices. Following this course, Iraqi workers were required to pass an exam testing their knowledge levels of safety. According to WII, their Erbil team is finding very positive results from recent refresher training of pole-line workers and corrective actions by Iraqi superintendents and safety inspectors, saying the 11 kilovolt crews working in Erbil are doing good quality work in a safe manner and are avoiding on-the-job injuries.

"Safety in the workplace is definitely our top priority," said Thomas Waters, Electricity Sector deputy program manager and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian. "People are the most important asset we have. We want everyone to go home to their families at the end of the work day free from injury or harm."

However, during Saddam's regime, safety training was rare or practically nonexistent, according to Waters, who said that this was the first time that many Iraqi laborers had received such training during their careers.

"The idea of having to wear closed-toed shoes instead of flip-flops on a work site is foreign to many Iraqi workers. They are not used to wearing hard hats at project sites, goggles when using a circular saw, protective eyewear when welding, or safety harnesses when working on scaffolding. These are all little steps on the way to building a modern nation that can meet international standards for safety and quality," he concluded.



Safety training is provided to Iraqis responsible for working on power lines.

Photo Montage: The Ar Ruthbah Hospital

Submitted by Lt. Col. Rolando R. Rodriguez



About Ar Ruthbah:

- The \$1.2m hospital project in Ar Ruthbah, Al Anbar Governorate, started in Sep. 2004 and will be complete in Feb. 2006.
- The structure contains three modular wings with a central courtyard.
- The hospital will provide inpatient surgery and treatment, outpatient and doctor services as well as emergency care for 15 patients with an inpatient capacity of 75 beds and outpatient care for 25 patients.





A Reconstruction Partnership



Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT)

<https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm>

Assistant Secretary: *The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.*

Principal Deputy to the ASA (ALT)/Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program

Management: *Mr. Dean Poppo*



US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division

<http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html>

Commanding General: *Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.*



Iraq Project & Contracting Office

<http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net>

Director- Baghdad: *Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr. (dual-hatted GRD-PCO)*

Deputy Director for Reconstruction: *Ms. Kathye Johnson*

Director-Washington: *Mr. James M. Crum*



Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan

JCC-IA provides responsive operational contracting support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Corps - Iraq to efficiently acquire vital supplies, services and construction in support of the Coalition Forces and the relief and reconstruction of Iraq.

Commander: *Maj. Gen. John Urias*



Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq

DASA(P&P)-I provides the necessary administrative and contracting support to the Chief of Mission, Project and Contracting Office, Multi-National Forces, and supports the humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and security of Iraq.

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U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov/iraq>

U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>

U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

